

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 NEA-06 ISO-00 AID-05 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07

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FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4932

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAID EINV EG FR

SUBJ: FRENCH ASSISTANCE TO EGYPT

REF: CAIRO 9285

1. FRENCH ASSISTANCE TO EGYPT AGREED TO DURING BILATERAL COMMISSION MEETINGS LAST MONTH (REFTEL) IS IN FACT QUITE MODEST. ACCORDING TO MFA ECONOMIC OFFICIAL GUILLEMANT (WHO WAS ON FRENCH DELEGATION), EGYPTIANS HAD HOPED FOR MORE GOF ASSISTANCE BUT DELEGATION HAD BEEN OBLIGED TO PLEAD INABILITY IN LIGHT OF FRENCH BALANCE OF PAYMENTS DIFFICULTIES.

2. CREDITS OFFERED BY FRANCE TOTAL 200,000 FRANCS

(APPROXIMATELY \$42 MILLION) OF WHICH ONE-THIRD TO BE 20-YEAR GOVERNMENTAL LOAN AND REMAINING TWO-THIRDS IN 10-YEAR COFACE-GUARANTEED SUPPLIER CREDITS. APPROXIMATELY HALF OF TOTAL IS EARMARKED FOR ABU KIR POWER PLANT IF FRENCH GET CONTRACT; REMAINDER TO BE USED FOR POSSIBLE LOCOMOTIVE SALES AND OTHER PROJECTS.

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GUILLEMANT SAID FRENCH HAD BEEN SLIGHTLY DISAPPOINTED

BY APPARRENT LACK OF ORGANIZATION ON EGYPTIAN SIDE,
WHICH HAD NOT DONE ITS HOMEWORK CAREFULLY IN PREPARING
PROJECTS FOR CONSIDERATION.

3. GUILLEMANT SAID FRENCH AGRICULTURAL MINISTER
HAD ALSO VISITED EGYPT RECENTLY TO DISCUSS POSSIBLE AID
IN AGRICULTURAL FIELD. FRENCH WERE INTERESTED IN
PROJECT TO WEST OF ISMAILIA AND WOULD PROBABLY PARTICI-
PATE. GOE HAD ALSO ATTEMPTED TO INTEREST FRENCH IN
ASWAN AREA PROJECT, BUT GOF FEELS THAT SIZE AND
COMPLEXITY OF PROJECT MAKE IT MORE SUITABLE FOR
CONSIDERATION WITHIN MULTILATERAL EC-ARAB FRAMEWORK
RATHER THAN BILATERAL. COMMENT: FRENCH POSSIBLY

SEE THIS APPROACH AS ADDED INDUCEMENT TO GOE TO SUPPORT
FORWARD MOVEMENT IN EC-ARAB DIALOGUE.
RUSH

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